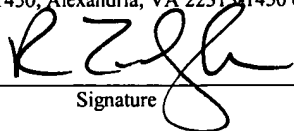




PATENT
016295.1485

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 8, 2004.


Signature

3-8-04
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Montano et al.

Application Serial No.: 10/644,428

Filed: August 20, 2003

Invention: Method for Assembling Hardware
Components in a Computer System

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Group Art Unit: 2133

Examiner: Albert Decady

STATUS INQUIRY

More than six (6) months have passed since the filing of this application on August 20, 2003. This application was filed as a continuation of an earlier application, since abandoned.

More than four (4) years and three (3) months have passed since the effective filing date of this application on November 19, 1999.

Please advise the undersigned of the status of this application by checking the appropriate box below. A stamped return-address envelope is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RZF', is written over a horizontal line.

Roger Fulghum
Registration No. 89,678

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One Shell Plaza
910 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77002-4995
(713) 229-1707

Attorney Docket No.: 016295.1485

Date: March 8, 2004



STATUS INQUIRY REPLY

Application Serial No. 10/644,428 is currently assigned to Group _____ and
awaits action by the examiner, which is expected within _____ months.